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10. (Amended) A hybrid protein according to Claim 8 wherein the bridging molecule is from around 10A to around 20A in length.

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12. (Amended) A hybrid protein according to Claim 1 covalently linked to one or more effector or reporter groups.

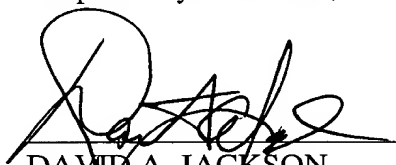
13. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a hybrid protein according to Claim 1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents or carriers.

REMARKS

The above amendments are submitted herewith to reduce multiple dependencies and to conform the claims more closely to U.S. practice.

Entry of the foregoing amendments and early and favorable processing in the National Phase before the United States Patent and Trademark Office is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosure: Marked-Up Version of Claims

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) A hybrid protein according to Claim 1 [or Claim 2] wherein each serum carrier protein is thyroxine-binding protein, transthyretin, α 1-acid glycoprotein, transferrin, fibrinogen or albumin or a fragment thereof.

4. (Amended) A hybrid protein according to Claim 1 [to Claim 3] wherein each antibody fragment is a monovalent Fab fragment optionally containing one or more additional amino acids attached to the C-terminus of the CH1 domain.

6. (Amended) A hybrid protein according to Claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims] comprising one antigen-binding antibody fragment covalently linked to an albumin molecule or a fragment thereof.

10. (Amended) A hybrid protein according to Claim 8 [or Claim 9] wherein the bridging molecule is from around 10A to around 20A in length.

12. (Amended) A hybrid protein according to Claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims] covalently linked to one or more effector or reporter groups.

13. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a hybrid protein according to Claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims] together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents or carriers.